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VANCOUVER • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity pg 30

A prenup in Brad and Angie's future?

Chances good for a white Christmas

WEATHER The Lower Mainland's second storm of the week, which yesterday played havoc on roads, is expected to abate to flurries this morning and by tonight it should be cold and clear.

But this might not last long, said Mindy Brugman, a meteorologist for Environment Canada.

"Friday and Saturday (might be) the coldest daily temperatures in a century," she said, adding that we could get more snow on Sunday.

"If we've ever had a year where we have a good chance of having a white Christmas, this is it."

Yesterday's snowfall was stronger and lasted longer than Environment Canada had predicted earlier in the week.

As much as 15 centimetres fell around the Lower Mainland, and a blizzard warning was issued in the Fraser Valley.

Flights were cancelled at Vancouver International Airport and various schools cancelled classes.

At 3 p.m. yesterday, Environment Canada's local communications officer was unavailable for media interviews, as he'd gone home early because of the snow.

Some bus routes in hilly areas like the North Shore and Burnaby had to be diverted and commuters faced long delays or were passed by. Andrea Waugh, a transit rider at Granville Station, said it's been difficult getting around the city. Added Michael Lara, "I took the 98 B-Line and people couldn't even fit."

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Please recycle

NICK DIDLICK/GETTY IMAGES

Trevor Linden, formerly of the Vancouver Canucks, smiles and laughs with former teammates and friends who wore No. 16 jerseys bearing his name at GM Place. Linden, accompanied by his wife Cristina Linden, had his number retired and raised before last night's game. Coverage, pg 3, 10

Hanging on high

The Vancouver Canucks deserve a lot of kudos for their handling of Trevor Linden's jersey retirement last night.

The ceremony was both moving and relevant without any lagging. Numerous former teammates and family members — including Linden's wife Cristina — were on hand to honour the most beloved of Canucks, and the stands were packed despite the chaotic road conditions due to snow. Many of the roughly 18,000 fans wore No. 16 on their backs and some arrived at The Garage hours early for the event.

From the decision to have youngsters don jerseys of all the teams Linden played for, to the stirring video tribute set to Brian Melo's All I Ever Wanted, and to the speech by Linden himself, fans were as moved as they were entertained.

Linden spoke with conviction, poise and passion as he acknowledged various people who helped mould him into the player and person we watched for 20 years.

"Growing up in Medicine Hat, life was quite simple," Linden said. "I played hockey in the winter and dreamed of being in the NHL.

"It's hard for me to express my gratitude to you. I often have people come up to me and thank me. It should be the other way around. Thank you for letting me into your lives."

His eyes were glassy when his number was finally raised to the rafters, a moment he absorbed with his family standing beside him as they always have.

Following the ceremony, the current group of Canucks gave Linden a fitting tribute by coming out on the winning end of a hard-nosed 4-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers.

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul

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Scott Rintoul is a college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. He can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Gondola tower collapse likely caused by ice buildup: Officials

WHISTLER An unusual buildup of ice likely caused the collapse of a gondola tower in Whistler that stranded 53 skiers in mid-air, officials said yesterday.

A preliminary investigation discovered that water had leaked into the tower. It then froze, creating a condition called "ice jacking," which caused the structure to fail on Tuesday.

"What happened yesterday was a very serious but isolated incident," said Doug Forseth, a senior vice-president for Whistler Blackcomb.

The broken tower had recently been inspected and it is not yet known how the water got into the structure and then broke metal welds when it turned to ice and expanded.

Safety officials allowed the resort's other lifts and gondolas to operate as normal yesterday, including the Peak 2 Peak, the world's longest and highest gondola line, which opened last week. REUTERS

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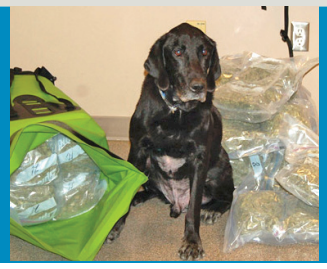
Clean power coming for cruise ships
Cruise ships stopped in Vancouver will soon be able to plug in to the dock and use hydro-electricity instead of diesel engines to stay powered. The $3-million initiative, funded by the federal and provincial governments and the Port of Vancouver, will remove 88 tonnes of emissions from the air. **CKNW.COM**

Local



Cops say goodbye to Jack

The RCMP is saying goodbye to Jack, a beloved Police Service Dog, who recently died. In his eight-year career, Jack detected around $42-million worth of drugs, including 270 kilograms of marijuana and ecstasy in one day. His handler, Cpl. Tim Baulkham, said he can't guess how many lives have been saved by Jack.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

INCIDENT A Vancouver woman says her nine-year-old son was dragged by a bus after its doors closed on his umbrella and started to move.

CRASH Two men in Pitt Meadows died in separate car crashes that happened three minutes apart, the RCMP said yesterday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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What's online today.

Video Boy who gave bone marrow to save his brother hailed as a hero at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video New spy drones arrive in Afghanistan to help keep soldiers safe at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Jim Flaherty vows to work with the provinces to revive the economy at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49	11, 18, 22, 28, 30 & 49 Bonus 25
BC 49	9, 12, 21, 36, 40 & 42 Bonus 47
Extra	3, 17, 43, 69

These results are not official.

Linden's off-ice efforts praised

JEFF HODSON
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Looking back on his 20-year career as a professional hockey player, Trevor Linden said he tried to make the most of his "small window" to affect people's lives for the better.

"When you're a hockey player you have the ability to make a difference," said Linden yesterday morning, hours before his jersey was raised to the rafters of GM Place. "I always tried to use that gift as much as I could."

As a young and impressionable player, Linden, the second overall pick in 1988, said the Canucks organization stressed community philanthropy as "the way we did things in Vancouver."

And Linden did just that. In his years in Vancouver, he was active in charities and was a regular at hospitals and hospices, visiting sick and dying children.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Trevor Linden is joined by broadcaster Tom Larscheid, left, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman at the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Linden's 20 years in the NHL yesterday.

Golden Gate

- At a surprise (and snowy) ceremony outside GM Place yesterday, the Vancouver Canucks unveiled a newly named Gate 16 in honour of Linden.

He received the King Clancy Memorial Trophy in 1997 and the NHL Foundation Player Award in 2008 for his off-ice efforts.

"Hockey players in Canada have a great gift, and I think you'll see their gifts in all cities across this great country. I was just one of them."

National Hockey League commissioner Gary Bettman, who was in Vancouver to honour Linden yesterday, called him "one of the finest people I've ever dealt with."

Linden said people will remember him as they will.

"I wasn't the most talented guy in the world, but I tried to apply myself in all areas. I worked hard. I was a guy that tried to play the right way and do things properly."

Masseuse charged with sexual assault

CRIME Vancouver sex-crime investigators are looking for information about a masseuse who is alleged to have had sexual contact with his clients.

Emmanuel Phappas has been charged with two counts of sexual assault in incidents on women between Aug. 16 and Dec. 22, 2007.

Phappas has worked at various spas in Vancouver and was an independent masseuse when the alleged offences took place.

METRO VANCOUVER

Man arrested for piracy after cops get tip

CRIME Abbotsford police arrested a 27-year-old man after they searched his house and discovered more than 700 pirated DVDs.

The arrest Sunday followed a one-month investigation that began following a tip that a man was selling counterfeit movies out of his home.

The movies included Four Christmases and Transporter 3. METRO VANCOUVER

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4 local

Citizens launch campaign for safer coalbed drilling
A coalition of citizens' groups is launching a campaign calling for the suspension of all coalbed methane drilling in B.C. until safer policies are put in place. **METRO VANCOUVER**

McMynn sentence delayed

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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The family of Graham McMynn will have to wait another two months to find out how long three men convicted in his kidnapping and confinement will spend in prison.

Anh The Nguyen, Jose Hernandez and Sam Tuan Vu were convicted in October for their role in the 2006 kidnapping of the former University of B.C. student. Two other accused were acquitted.

The men were to be sentenced yesterday in B.C. Supreme Court, but Lyndsey Smith, Hernandez's lawyer, asked for an adjournment until a psychiatric assessment could be done on her client.

"This (report) will assist the court in providing an appropriate sentence," she said.

The Crown acquiesced, saying it wants all three men to be sentenced at once.

McMynn's father, Robert McMynn, said he's worried the men could earn double credit for the time spent in jail before sentencing.

"I was encouraged by the judge's statements that he opened the door for the Crown to argue that excess time should not be granted for time served," he said outside the courthouse.

Robert McMynn

McMynn was kidnapped at gunpoint near his family's upscale south Vancouver home as he and his girlfriend were driving to UBC.

He was rescued eight days later after a massive police operation.

Date set for '09

- Nguyen and Hernandez were convicted of forcible confinement and could face up to life in prison. Vu could get up to 10 years for his role in confining McMynn.
- They're set to be sentenced on Feb. 24, 2009.

SkyTrain takes a tour to help food banks

ETHAN ROTBERG
for Metro Vancouver

CHARITY While most SkyTrains were packed with people avoiding the snow yesterday, one SkyTrain car was packed with something different — donated food, toys and blankets.

The B.C. Rapid Transit Company (BCRTC) teamed up with Ampco Graphics to help raise donations for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society and the Surrey Food Bank.

Commuters were encouraged to leave non-perishable food items in collection bins at one of seven SkyTrain stations. One special train was dedicated to picking up the donated goods.

The campaign was originally started within the staff, but BCRTC spokesperson Jennifer Siddon said they decided to open it up to the public after hearing reports that donations were down this year.

"It's been hard enough with people just trying to get around today," said Siddon. "But we've had an excellent response and a lot of generosity."

As of late afternoon, the train was about one-quarter full of donated goods. BCRTC staff also raised close to $1,500 in cash.

ETHAN ROTBERG/FOR METRO VANCOUVER
BCRTC employee Ryan Barry with donated items at Waterfront station.

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Pacific ports, unions to resume labour talks
Talks aimed at averting a strike at some Pacific Coast ports are progressing slowly, a representative of the employers said yesterday. Foremen in Vancouver and Prince Rupert, B.C., will be in a legal strike position as of Jan. 2, but the union and employers are scheduled to meet with a mediator again tomorrow. **REUTERS**

Canada/World

Ontario **Shelter fire survivors**

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rocko the husky, left, and Bailey the golden retriever mix survived a fire at an Oshawa, Ont., Humane Society shelter yesterday morning. The blaze killed roughly 200 animals, including 150 cats, three dogs and dozens of small animals. Firefighters were able to rescue eight dogs, two cats and a rat named Baby Barnard before the inferno engulfed the shelter.

Stressed soldiers slip through cracks: Report

The stigma surrounding mental illness remains one of the greatest challenges facing the Canadian Forces today, the military ombudsman said in a report on operational stress injuries released yesterday.

"It is clear that stereotypes and stigma associated with operational stress injuries still remain a real problem," ombudsman Mary McFadyen told reporters yesterday. "Cultural change is needed and that must come from the top."

The report is a followup to a devastating 2002 assessment of operational stress injuries and notes that while there has been progress — including the plan to hire 218 new mental health professionals by next March — 18 of the 31 recommendations from the initial report have not been fully implemented.

> **"The consequences ... are often devastating and long lasting."**
> Mary McFadyen

"The consequences for individuals who fall through the cracks are often devastating and long lasting," McFadyen wrote in the 62-page report. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

News in brief

EDMONTON A man out for a smoke got the shock of a lifetime when a naked woman fell from the sky yesterday morning. The 19-year-old woman fell from a third-floor balcony of an apartment and landed at the feet of a man standing outside. Though she was, miraculously, uninjured, police believe she may have been the victim of a domestic dispute, and was possibly on drugs.

CALGARY An Alberta man was sentenced to 30 days in jail for torturing his family's dog in October 2006. Daniel Haskett, 21, pled guilty to causing unnecessary suffering and obstruction of justice. **METRO CANADA**

Cobblers claim credit for shoes

Across the Middle East, rival shoemakers have claimed it was they who created the footwear flung at U.S. President George W. Bush by an angry Iraqi and immortalized by TV cameras.

For many, reporter Muntazer al-Zaidi is a hero for the attack on Bush, and some of the glory seems to have rubbed off on the shoes that almost connected with the presidential head.

Suggestions have been made that they came from cobblers in China, Turkey or Lebanon. But yesterday, Zaidi's brother dismissed such reports, saying they came from the factory of Iraqi shoemaker Alaa Haddad, viewed as among the country's best.

Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak reported Turkish businessman Ramazan Baydan had made the shoes and carried a front page picture of the design, alongside the headline Made in Turkey.

Baydan said he designed the style in 1999, and orders from Iraq had increased by 100 per cent since the Bush incident. **REUTERS**

Hero's reward?

- An Egyptian man said yesterday he was offering his 20-year-old daughter in marriage to Iraqi journalist Muntazer al-Zaidi, who threw his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush in Baghdad on Sunday.

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GIVE HOLIDAY STRESS THE BOOT!

We've got 6 simple tips to help just about anybody stay on top of things this holiday season.

Are you getting more stressed out as the holidays approach? Does the mere thought of not finding the perfect gift for each person, entertaining people at home, or finding the right dress for the office party make you nervous? The holiday season is supposed to be fun... but for those who need to juggle work, a household, gifts and entertaining, it can sometimes seem like an obstacle course.

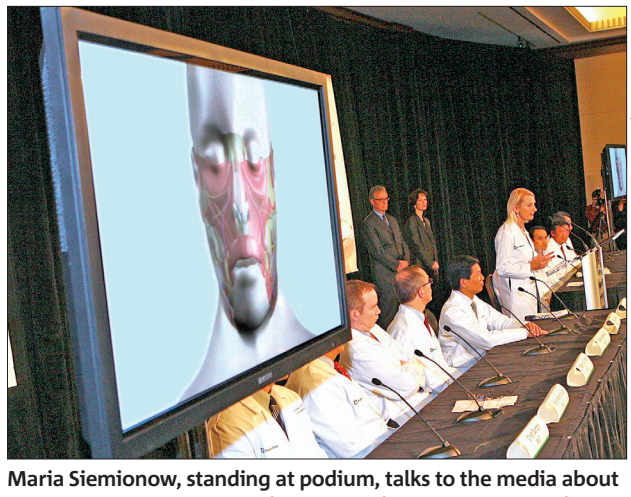
Here are a few basic rules to follow in order to avoid getting too stressed out and to help you enjoy this special season.

Have fun

Once your guests are in the house, relax and enjoy their presence. You'll notice that people are always willing to lend a hand, so accept it if they offer. Also, there's no shame in not having everything on the table when the guests arrive.

(continued online...)

To read more, visit lifestyle.yahoo.ca



AARON JOSEFCZYK/REUTERS

Maria Siemionow, standing at podium, talks to the media about the surgeons team that performed the first U.S. near-total face transplant in the past two weeks in Cleveland, Ohio, yesterday.

First U.S. patient receives near-total face transplant

SCIENCE Surgeons have replaced 80 per cent of a woman's face, transplanting bone, teeth, muscle and nerve in the first such operation in the United States.

They said the woman suffered severe trauma that cost her an eye, much of her nose and her upper jaw and left her unable to breathe, smell, taste or smile properly.

Ohio's Cleveland Clinic, which oversaw the operation, gave no details about the woman, how she was injured, or who the donor was. **REUTERS**

News in brief

UNITED STATES The Illinois Supreme Court yesterday denied a request that embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich be temporarily removed from office amid charges he tried to sell President-elect Barack Obama's old U.S. Senate seat.

ISRAEL Relatives of Russian tourists injured in a bus crash arrived in Israel yesterday as officials prepared to fly the bodies of the 24 people who did not survive back to St. Petersburg. **REUTERS**

Yahoo cuts data retention
Search engine Yahoo Inc. will cut to three months the amount of time it stores personal data gathered from web surfing,the company said yesterday. REUTERS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

BCE suing would-be buyers for fee

LEGAL Telecom giant BCE Inc. has sued its would-be buyers in a failed $34.8-billion takeover agreement over the collapsed deal's $1.2-billion breakup fee.

According to a court document filed in Quebec and posted on BCE's website, the company says it's entitled to the money from the buyers — a group of private-equity firms led by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

The buyers have said neither side is owed a fee as a result of the deal's collapse.

In its lawsuit, BCE asks the provincial Superior Court that the OTPP pay about $704 million of the "now overdue" total, while two of the other buyers shoulder the balance.

REUTERS

'Critical' browser flaw exposes 1.5M

More than 1.5 million computer users around the globe may have been exposed to harmful software or viruses because of a "critical" security flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer, the most widely used web browser in the world.

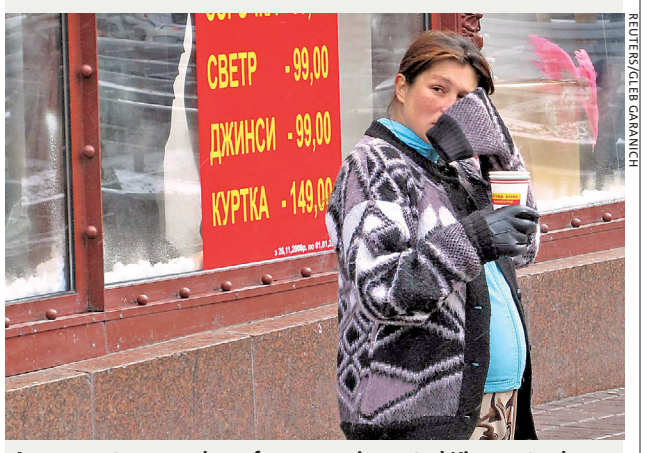
The software giant yesterday took the unusual step of releasing an unscheduled update to protect customers using all supported versions of the software.

"This is a severe vulnerability," said Ben Greenbaum, a senior research manager for Symantec Security Response, which sells anti-virus software.

He added that Symantec's research showed a "significant" increase in hacker attacks over the past several days that aimed to exploit the flaw

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ukraine **Consumers struggling**



REUTERS/GLEB GARANICH

A pregnant woman begs for money in central Kiev yesterday. Ukrainian consumers could default on 60 per cent of their debt obligations, an aide to the president said yesterday.

Business in brief

CRUDE Oil prices dropped three per cent yesterday after OPEC announced a record supply cut of 2.2 million barrels per day that dealers said may fail to offset slumping energy demand. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Canada plays musical chairs at UN

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

From Lawrence Cannon comes word that Canada is "actively campaigning" for a seat on the United Nations Security Council beginning in 2011.

Cannon made the announcement — if that is what it was — at a diplomatic forum in Quebec City yesterday. Reuters treated it as news. For Canadians who fear their country has gone missing in the world, maybe it is.

News? It's news that we are "pursuing" a seat that we have held, once a decade, since the founding of the United Nations in 1945? It's news that we are mounting a campaign to assume our traditional role as one of the 10 rotating non-permanent members of the council?

If that's news, it's because Canada's stature has fallen so far that last spring Ottawa had considered *not* running for a seat traditionally considered ours. If we were not going to win it, the government felt, why risk the embarrassment of losing?

We are now a country that's a shadow of its former self in the world, which must labour mightily to win a seat on the Security Council. The fear in Ottawa is that Canada won't have the votes in the General Assembly when the election is held in 2010.

Much has to do with a loss of support in Africa, where we no longer have the presence in development assistance that we did. Indeed, some say that we have abandoned Africa.

This time the two open seats may likely to go Portugal or to Germany, which has been mounting a well-organized campaign.

Incidentally, Cannon is the Minister of Foreign Affairs. You can be forgiven if you don't know this because it's unlikely the world does, as well.

This isn't his fault; Cannon is intelligent, thoughtful and articulate in both official languages. The problem is Cannon is Canada's fourth foreign minister since the Conservatives took office in February 2006. He has been preceded by Peter MacKay, Maxime Bernier and David Emerson.

Changing ministers like changing shirts isn't new; since Lester Pearson left the position in 1957, Canada has had a different foreign minister about every two years. The terms are getting shorter.

This suggests a country without commitment, which simply isn't serious about the world anymore. And that's why we are now chasing a seat on the Security Council, and why that is news in Canada.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.

Views

Getting better care for our children: It's the policy, stupid

Martha Friendly

A new study of early childhood education and care in 25 countries ranked Canada in last place, tied with Ireland, behind the U.S., Australia and Mexico.

While other evidence has long shown Canada to be a laggard on child care, UNICEF's study — the first to use measurable outcomes — has motivated Canadians to ask, "Why are we doing so poorly?" The study offers a plain answer: "It's the policy, stupid," paraphrasing former U.S. president Bill Clinton's campaign slogan.

Two key developments drove the study. First, most children in affluent countries now have mothers working outside the home; 75 per cent of mothers of three- to five-year-olds are in the labour force in Canada. Second, abundant research shows that young children — especially older preschoolers and more vulnerable children — benefit from good quality early childhood education (ECEC).

UNICEF observes that these developments converge: Access to good quality not only enhances a child's well-being and development with long-term social and economic returns, but is also a key strategy for responding to immediate economic challenges such as parents' access to employment, reduction of dependence on social programs, strengthening local economies and job creation.

The study bases its rankings on 10 benchmarks that build upon Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that states, "The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

The rankings tell the public policy story. None of the six poorest ranking countries has a national plan for ECEC. The six top countries met most of the benchmarks. The benchmark ratings show that public policy "in the best interests of children" means that a national policy and adequate financing are linked to good access to quality ECEC programs and go hand-in-hand with better parental leave, lower child poverty rates and better health indicators for young children.

It's no wonder that UNICEF has called on Canada for a public policy response — "The federal government must take the lead … with solutions presented to the public by July 2009." A good beginning to this would be funds for child care in the January federal budget followed by development of a robust ECEC policy framework that meets the needs of families and children.

Canada should do no less.

Martha Friendly is the executive director of the Childcare Resource and Research Unit.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Davenport pregnant, to skip Aussie open

American tennis star Lindsay Davenport is withdrawing from the Australian Open because she is pregnant with her second child. The former No. 1-ranked woman gave birth to a son, Jagger, in June 2007. Davenport hasn't played since the U.S. Open in August of this year. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

"There's just so many bloggers; everybody's got an opinion. Sometimes that starts forming the opinion of people in front offices, too, and owner."

Minnesota Timberwolves coach Kevin McHale, left, to the St. Paul Pioneer-Press on the stresses of coaching in the NBA today. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Tiger not sure about return time

GOLF Tiger Woods has no idea when he will return to competitive golf next year, despite being ahead of schedule in his recovery from reconstructive knee surgery.

The world No. 1 has been sidelined since winning the U.S. Open in June.

REUTERS

TheHockeyNews

Sam McCaig

Read at metronews.ca

Canucks honour Linden with win

NHL RESULT

Oilers 2 Canucks 4

OILERS VS CANUCKS

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

THE SKINNY: Two goals from Daniel Sedin and another from Ryan Kesler staked the Canucks to a 3-0 lead through two periods, while Jannik Hansen's empty-netter stymied a third-period rally by the Oilers. Curtis Sanford made 22 saves for his fifth win of the season, and the Canucks capped off Trevor Linden night in style by keeping pace atop the Northwest Division.

THE INJURY: A hit from behind by Ethan Moreau sent Sami Salo right back to the MASH unit as the Canucks defenceman left the ice clutching his ribs and shoulder. Salo was playing his first game since suffering a groin injury Dec. 7 in Colorado.

THE HIT: Hansen absolutely steamrolled Oilers' rearguard Tom Gilbert with an open-ice collision in the third period as the defenceman attempted to skate the puck out of his own zone.

THE CEREMONY: An excellent blend of video, former teammates, family and poignant words provided a fitting salute to the man often referred to as the Ultimate Canuck. Linden's speech was both heart-felt and classy as he heaped praise on others for their roles in his 20 year career.

THE QUOTE: "I might have had a glass of wine; he might have had a glass of milk." Former Canuck Harold Snepsts on going for dinner with an 18-year-old Linden in his rookie season.

THE RATING: Not as much emotion as was expected from a pair of division rivals. Not as many chances, either. 3½ out of 5 stars.

THE NEXT GAME: The Canucks host the young guns known as the Chicago Blackhawks on Saturday night — great matchup for Hockey Night in Canada.

ANDY CLARK /REUTERS

Canucks goalie Curtis Sanford deflects a shot as teammate Sami Salo, left, stops Edmonton's Dustin Penner from getting the rebound.

Consider everything, Sundin

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul

scott.rintoul@team1040.ca

Today could very well be decision day for Mats Sundin, although his agent indicated that word might not come down until tomorrow.

Most predictions have him going to New York for a variety of reasons: Easier travel schedule, the presence of Markus Naslund, and the chance to play for a historic franchise in the Big Apple.

There is also the notion that he'll have a better shot of earning a Stanley Cup ring with the Rangers, which is debatable upon further inspection.

True, the Rangers play in a weaker conference and have more household names as far as offensive talent goes. But New York's 21-11-2 record is a bit misleading in that eight of those wins have come in the shootout.

That means New York is realistically hovering around .500 for the season, a hypothesis supported by the Rangers' plus-2 goal differential for the season. The Blue Shirts have also played more than half of their games on home ice, so there could be a correction coming.

The Canucks, on the other hand, have fashioned an impressive 18-11-3 record despite missing their top player for one third of the season and having played 19 road games to date.

Though Vancouver has the likes of Detroit and/or San Jose to go through in the West, it can be argued that the Canucks have a better roster in place once Roberto Luongo returns for making a postseason run.

As New York is reportedly offering less than half of the $10 million the Canucks have on the table, Sundin will be taking a very expensive chance to chase the Cup with the Rangers if chooses to ply his trade on Broadway.

Scott Rintoul is a college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. He can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.

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Staying in is the new dining out?
According to the latest Eating Patterns In Canada report from The NPD Group, a full 88 per cent of respondents revealed their intentions to decrease the amount of time spent dining out in restaurants, choosing the comforts of home instead. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Just 5 Things: Easy Gourmet Cooking with Just a Handful of Ingredients is true to its word — all recipes contain only five ingredients."

Metro News Services

In colour
The Reader's Digest book, by Rachel Lane, contains more than 330 recipes, all illustrated with full-colour photographs.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Try these season's eatings

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Sticky Toffee Pudding is a winter dessert when warm and comforting — it really hits the spot. Wishing you delicious season's eatings!

Sticky Toffee Puddings

Makes 8 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) pitted dates (about 8 oz/250 g), chopped
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) boiling water
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla
- 1-1/4 cups (300 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) butter, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) dark brown sugar
- 2 eggs

Toffee Sauce:
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) dark brown sugar
- 4 tsp (20 mL) cornstarch
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla

METHOD:
Place dates and baking soda in a heatproof bowl. Pour boiling water over, stir and submerge dates in water; let stand 10 minutes until dates are well-softened. Mash with a fork. Stir in vanilla.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Butter 8 ramekin or custard cups. Whisk together flour, baking powder and salt, set aside.

In a bowl, beat butter and brown sugar together until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in flour mixture then date mixture until evenly mixed (don't over-mix). Divide batter between cups, filling about 3/4's full.

Place ramekins on a baking sheet and bake until puddings spring back when lightly touched or toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Transfer ramekins to wire rack to cool 10 minutes. Run a knife around edges to loosen.

While puddings are baking, make sauce. In a 4-cup (1 L) glass measure or bowl, whisk sugar and cornstarch together. Whisk in milk until smooth. Microwave, uncovered at High for 2 to 3 minutes or until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Whisk a few times during cooking. Stir in butter until melted, then vanilla. Makes about 1-1/4 cups (300 mL).

To serve, turn warm puddings out onto individual plates and serve with warm Toffee Sauce.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

The Festival of Chanukah

This recipe is from Norene's Healthy Kitchen: Eat Your Way to Good Health by Norene Gilletz (Whitecap Books, $35):

Decadent Marbled Cheesecake

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 lb (500 g) light cream cheese, cut in chunks
- 1/2 lb (250 g) non-fat pressed (smooth) cottage cheese, cut into chunks
- 1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 eggs plus 2 egg whites (or 3 eggs)
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Passover brandy or liqueur
- 3 oz (75 g) dark, bittersweet chocolate, melted

METHOD:
Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Fill a baking pan half-full with water and place it on the bottom rack of the oven. (The steam helps prevent the cheesecake from cracking.) Spray a 10-inch ceramic quiche dish with cooking spray.

In a food processor fitted with steel blade, process cream cheese, cottage cheese and sugar until smooth, about 30 seconds. Add eggs and brandy; process until well-mixed, about 25 to 30 seconds longer. (Don't over-process.) Remove 1 cup (250 mL) batter and mix with melted chocolate until blended.

Pour the white batter into prepared dish. Pour chocolate batter over white batter in a wide circle, about 1/2-inch (1 cm) in from the sides of the dish; there should be a bull's-eye of white batter in the centre. Cut through the batter carefully with a knife to create a marbled effect. Don't blend the batter too much or the marbled effect will disappear.

Bake on middle rack for 30 to 35 minutes or until centre jiggles slightly when you shake the dish, but cheesecake won't be sticky when touched lightly with your fingertips. Let cool completely, then cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.

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Operation Red Nose is once more underway, giving holiday revellers free and safe rides home throughout the Lower Mainland. If you're a bit tipsy from your holiday party or just nervous about icy roads, call 1-877-604-6673 or visit bccpa.org/rednose. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

Urban Foodie will be on hiatus for the next two weeks, resuming on Jan. 8, 2009. Have a wonderful holiday season and happy eating!

Anya's Top 10 restaurants of 2008

ANYA LEVYKH
anya.levykh@gmail.com

It's been a tasty year and I have found a lot to be thankful for. Here, in no particular order, are my favourite new dining spots from the past 12 months. The common theme among all these choices is their focus on comfort food, both new and old — apropos in today's uncertain world. Please note that this list comprises those restaurants that opened by November. Enjoy!

Fraîche

**2240 Chippendale Rd.
West Vancouver
604-925-7595
fraicherestaurant.ca**

The location says it all. The British Properties neighbourhood is now that much more liveable, thanks to a fabulous view, fresh ingredients and inventive West Coast twists on classic comfort dishes.

Yew

**791 West Georgia St.
Vancouver
604-689-9333
fourseasons.com/vancouver**

It was the trumpet that signalled the return of glam hotel dining in Vancouver. With its impressive wine program, stunning décor and versatile kitchen, The Four Season's Yew is (literally) the full meal deal.

Cibo

**900 Seymour St.
Vancouver
604-602-9570
modahotel.ca**

Another hotel heavy-hitter, this small trattoria boasts contemporary Italian dining infused with local colour and ingredients, all via a British chef. With its wine-compatible menu and complete lack of kitsch, this is the Italian we all want to be seduced by.

Michi Sushi

**1513 West Broadway
Vancouver
604-736-4244
michi-sushi.com**

No list is complete without Vancouver's favourite food group — sushi. This bright little hole-in-the-wall is not just about great food when you're on the go. The use of 50 per cent brown rice, fresh local ingredients and minimal packaging means both your waistline and the environment are spared.

La Quercia

**3689 West 4 Ave.
Vancouver
604-676-1007
laquercia.ca**

This tiny trattoria (only 32 seats) has made Dunbar a dining destination once again. A focus on Piedmont and Emilio-Romagna means hearty flavours, big wines and a daily fresh sheet longer than my arm.

Medina Café

**556 Beatty St.
Vancouver
604-879-3114
medinacafe.com**

Tagine, merguez, Belgian waffles with lavender chocolate and thick omelettes in cast iron pans; all are part of the magic of Medina's lunch and brunch menu. It's a unique offering that attracts finicky foodies in economic rain or shine.

Les Faux Bourgeois

**663 East 15 Ave.
Vancouver
604-873-9733
lesfauxbourgeois.com**

The East Side has long been under-represented in the resto category, but not anymore. This ultimate French bistro arrived in lower Kingsway with splendid duck confit, pate de campagne and enough reasonably priced wine to get oh-so-happily sloshed.

Red X Red

**1216 Granville St.
Vancouver
604-408-6352
vodkabar.ca**

The city's first (and only) vodka bar is also home to some of the most comforting and inventive Eastern European cuisine outside of Little Odessa. A kitchen that makes everything from scratch and 80-plus vodkas from around the world are all just icing on the Kiev cake.

Voya Restaurant

**1177 Melville St.
Vancouver
604-669-5060
voyarestaurant.com**

Some say it's the golden glow cast by the shimmery chandeliers, others that it's the service provided under GM Robert Herman. I say it's all that and the bag of chips that Chef Marc-André Choquette could probably whip up in his sleep. It's the kind of fine dining that Vancouver hasn't experienced in decades and it's about time.

La Brasserie

**1091 Davie St.
Vancouver
604-677-4682
labrasserievancouver.com**

This Franco-German dining spot has revitalized a sorry stretch of the West End with its rotisserie chicken, suckling pig and schupfnudeln (see photo) and value-priced wine list. It's bistro savoir faire and it's beautiful.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Medley's Restaurant

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Medley's Restaurant is a popular spot with a friendly, casual atmosphere. Favourite dishes at Medley's Restaurant include pizza, Medley's clubhouse sandwich and daily features from our award-winning chef. A Hearty Best-4-breakfast buffet is served everyday starting at 6:30AM. Don't forget that children under the age of 12 eat free when accompanied by an adult.

Medley's Bistro Bar

A quiet spot right off the lobby - perfect for a get together. The Bar features a wide selection of wine, beer and scotch, as well as lighter fare such as a classic Caesar salad and sweet and spicy chicken wings.

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hivancouverdowntown.com**

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Yaletown's newest arrival is a hip lounge with some of the best tasting share plates in town.
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planblounge.com**

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Holiday Shopping Guide V

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Go for plush

#1 For the love of pets

Visit: tinipuppini.com
"Toffee" Tini Puppini doll, $34.99, by Spin Master. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, more.

#2 Hot holiday toys for him

Visit: bakugan.com
Bakugan Battle Brawlers, $5.49-$24.99. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, and more.

#3 Jingle bell rock 'n' roll

Visit: cbc.ca/kids
Mamma Yamma and Friends CD, $19.99 at chapters-indigo.ca.

#4 Fun and educational

Visit: beezibeez.com
This spelling game, $29.99, is available at barnesandnoble.com.

#5 Help them get active

Visit: m2universe.com
Kids can play Me2, $36.95, once they earn points through physical activity.

#6 Rockin' and rollin'

Visit: winners.ca
This plush rocking giraffe, $59.99, is available at Winners stores across Canada.

#7 Monkeying around

Phone: 1-888-633-5833
Visit: GrassrootsStore.com
Organic cotton-stuffed monkeys, $29.99.

#8 Make music

Visit: toyexpress.ca
Amazing Animals Spinnin' Around Musical Zoo by Fisher-Price, $60.

#9 For a good cause

Visit: ikea.ca
Soft toys, from $2.99-$14.99 ($1.58 goes to UNICEF and Save the Children).

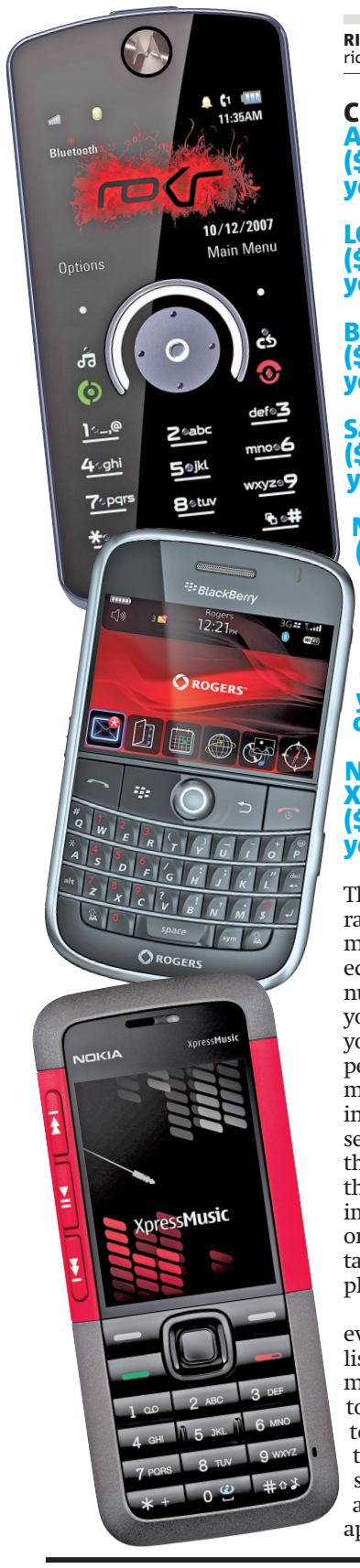
#10 Artistic expression

Visit: stampinup.com
Stampin' Kids Tattoo Kits, $16.50 each. Includes six individual designs.

Solid perfume
Organic Vanilla Reve solid perfume, $20 by the Cream Perfume Company. Available at health stores across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide V

Top gifts for every techie



RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

CELLPHONES:

Apple IPhone 3G ($199 with a three-year contract)

LG Vu ($79.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

BlackBerry Bold ($299 with a three-year Rogers contract)

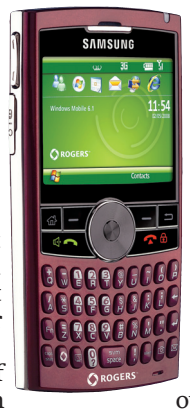
Samsung Jack Merlot ($24.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

Nokia E71 ($99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

Motorola Rokr ($49 with a three-year Rogers contract)

Nokia 5310 XpressMusic ($19.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

There's an almost endless range of cellphones on the market these days, and an equally endless number of things you can do with your phone, depending on how much you're willing to spend on service plans. One thing's for sure, though: It's almost impossible to find one that won't take pictures or play music.



At the top of everyone's wish list is the **IPhone** — the most addictive phone ever to hit the market, thanks to its wildly responsive touch screen and the wild selection of software available through ITunes' app store.

Never mind that if you use the phone as much as it wants you to, you have to recharge the thing every night — it's a computer even more than a cellphone.

LG's Vu is a sort of IPhone lite — a similarly sleek touch screen phone with an icon-based interface.

An especially nice touch is the shutter for the camera — placed on the side, roughly where you'd expect to find it on a real camera.

The **BlackBerry Bold** is among the widest on the market, a boon for text and e-mail fiends with big thumbs.

Like the IPhone, the Bold has a full range of features, but it's all work, and little play — the way it requires that you go two clicks into the menu to turn on the keypad lock is an example of the rigorous relationship BlackBerry users have with their phones.

The **Samsung Jack** is another handful of a phone, running Windows Mobile with a full QWERTY keyboard.

Mobile isn't a supremely elegant operating system, but it has the advantage of working well with your computer, and the comfort level of putting everything in the same place even when you change phones.

Nokia's slick, solid **E71** is the narrowest of the trio, and might prove a bit awkward for bulky digits.

It also uses Nokia's own OS, which takes some time to get comfy with.

The **Motorola Rokr** is a pretty phone, and impressively built, with a nice haptic touch interface — essential for a sleek candybar phone with no buttons.

The software and the small screen make it the least user-friendly of the bunch, however.

But rumour has it the company is actively working to overcome this failing.

Finally, **Nokia's 5310** is a small but handy phone if you eschew text and e-mail but want to leave your MP3 player at home.

You're going to need a 4GB MicroSD card to make that work, although the phone's nominal cost makes that more than affordable.

MINI COMPUTERS:

Toshiba Portege R600 ($3,299)

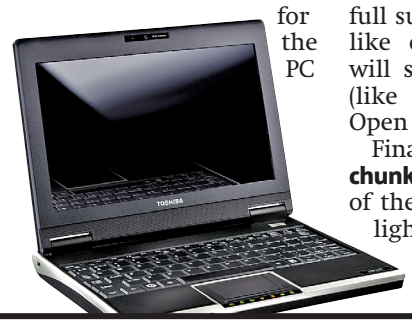
HP Mini 1000 ($399)

Dell Mini 9 ($349)

Toshiba Netbook NB100 ($479)

The day of the monster laptop is ending, with the larger members of the species taking up permanent residence in homes as "desktop replacements," while lighter, nimbler runabout models are taking advantage of the era of USB keys and net storage and losing their disc drives.

On the high end is **Toshiba's R600**, a sort of AirBook for the PC world. A fully featured Vista machine, it slims down both weight and battery consumption thanks to a 128GB solid state hard drive, but still manages to include a DVD disc drive. There's an eSATA port and two USB slots for outboard memory storage, and a fingerprint reader for paranoid types.



Dell's Mini 9 is the chunkiest of the mini notebooks at 2.28 pounds, and runs XP on an Intel Atom chip on a 16GB solid state drive, though an Ubuntu Linux version is available with a 32GB SSD. It has an 8.9-inch widescreen LED screen, and the keyboard has shifted some peripheral key placement around to fit its tight dimensions (just 9.13 inches).

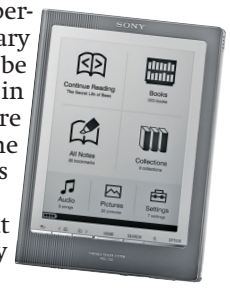
HP's Mini 1000 is a bit wider than the Mini 9, and the keyboard is a bit more comfortable to use. It's just 2.25 pounds and runs XP on an Atom chip, with a 10.2-inch LED display. It has an SD/MMC card slot like the Dell and a range of hard drive options, from SSD to a 60GB PATA drive. HP is also designing the Mini 1000 with Wireless-G network options to make it the most truly mobile of the small notebooks. It comes with a full suite of MS Office, unlike other minis, which will ship with MS Works (like the Dell above) or Open Office.

Finally, there's **Toshiba's chunky NB100**, the tiniest of the lot, though not the lightest thanks to the 120GB hard drive. With an 8.9-inch screen and an Atom chip running XP Home, it still includes a full version of Office. The keyboard is tiny, and the trackpad tinier, and though the latter didn't prove too much of a problem, typing proved a truly cramped affair — at one point I actually wanted to pick the thing up and use my thumbs like I was texting.

READERS:

Sony Reader PRS-505 ($299)

Sony Reader PRS-700 ($399)



The paperless library might be further in the future than the paperless office, even, but the day will come when most of us do our reading on sheets of e-ink, and Sony has been in on the revolution from nearly the beginning.

The two current models of **Sony's Reader** are actually very different; the PRS-505 is slightly more low-tech, with page turns and menu accessible through small but discrete buttons, while the PRS-700 has a slicker touchscreen interface with page turns made by a flick of the finger.

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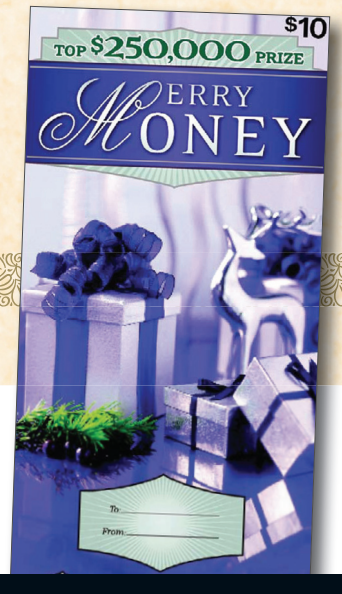

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Holiday Shopping Guide V

Furry friends

#1 Holiday cheer

Visit: oldnavy.ca
Doggie holiday T-shirt, $10.50. Available at Old Navy.

#2 Pamper your pooch

Mail order: 604-408-4182
Kiehl's "For Your Dog" line includes shampoo and spritz, $15-$18.50.

#3 Help her get cosy

Visit: canadiantire.ca
Red 18" corduroy and fleece tie Dog Bed, $8.99. Available at Canadian Tire.

#4 Make him run for it

Visit: homehardware.ca
Chuckit Small Flying Squirrel, $6.27. Throws like a flying disc.

#5 For the sports fan

Visit: walmart.ca
Pet jerseys featuring different NHL hockey teams, $16.93. At Wal-Mart.

#6 Exercise for your cat

Visit: homehardware.ca
Cheese Chase Cat Toy, $13.97. Includes plush mouse filled with catnip.

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Gifts for your wise men

#1

#2

#3

#4

#5

#7

#8

#6

#1 Naturally Nourishing
Visit: burtsbees.ca
Burt's Bees Nourishing Gift Set includes body wash and lip balm, $23.99.

#2 Dress him up
Visit: bananarepublic.ca
Men's cufflinks, $50. Available at Banana Republic.

#3 Smooth moves
Visit: schick.ca
Schick Quattro Titanium Trimmer razor, $12.99. At mass market retailers.

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to find a retailer near you
Montblanc TimeWalker Desk Clock, $1,060.

#5 For the sports fan
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Nike Bauer Individual Stick Bag, $25. At hockey specialty stores.

#6 For the collector
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#7 Luxury leather
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#8 Stylish and warm
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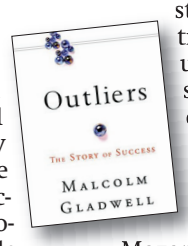
Something for the readers on your list

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

This holiday season, travel to northern Ontario, India, into history and through the minds of the world's greatest achievers by stuffing one of these books in the stocking of the book lover in your life. Metro recommends these novel novels for a taste of the latest and greatest in books.

Outliers: The Story of Success

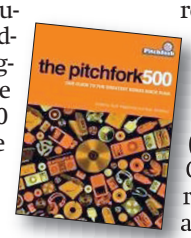
Author: Malcolm Gladwell
Publisher: H.B Fenn & Company Ltd.
Price: $30.99 (hardcover)



THE CANADIAN-RAISED author of The Tipping Point and Blink and staffer at The New Yorker examines the grounds for greatness in Outliers: The Story of Success. In Outliers, Gladwell begs to relate why certain people are so much more successful than the social norm. While considering factors like culture, birth year, geographic origin and social status, Gladwell identifies real examples to unlock the secrets to success. Among the cases examined, he probes why certain male children excel in hockey compared to others, what Mozart, The Beatles and Bill Gates share that made them successful and the historical reason why Asian kids perform so much better in mathematics than other children.

The Pitchfork 500

Editors: Scott Plagenhoef and Ryan Schreiber
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Canada
Price: $18.99 (paperback)

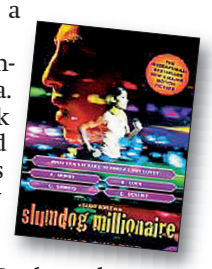


FROM DAVID BOWIE'S pared down, post-Ziggy tune "Heroes", through Björk's Homogenic homage to Iceland, Jóga, to Beirut's Balkan love ballad Postcards from Italy, The Pitchfork 500 picks the top songs "from punk to the present" perfect for the music snob in your life. Assembled by six editors and 38 contributors, and divided by year segments, The Pitchfork 500 provides the genre-spanning backstories to some of music's greatest songs and artists. Interspersed with niche genre capsules like "Grindcore: Ten Skatepunk Greats" and "Bootybass", the comprehensive guide contains a euphonically assorted selection that will both entertain and educate even the elitist of audiophiles.

Slumdog Millionaire

Author: Vikas Swarup
Publisher: Harper Perennial
Price: $17.95 (paperback)

WHEN AN UNLIKELY, uneducated young man from the slums of Mumbai walks away with the top prize on ante-upped game show Who Will Win a Billion?, there's certain suspicion his talent for trivia must be the result of cheating. But 18-year-old waiter Ram Mohammad Thomas insists he just knew the answers. In Slumdog Millionaire (originally published as Q&A), Thomas animatedly relives his past to convince a lawyer just how a teen that never read a newspaper went from slumdog to stinking rich. Sparkling and smart, Slumdog Millionaire bridges class and virtue in a touching, modern image of India. The book was adapted to film this year by Trainspotting director Danny Boyle and won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival.



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#2 For the stylista
Visit: frenchconnection.com
Ladies watch, $198, and ladies vest, $39.99, both by French Connection.

#3 Comfort and joy
Phone: 1-800-363-8737
Visit: tilley.com
Tilley's Travel Jersey Wrap, $79. Also in black and red.

#4 Tasty tea treats
Visit: languageoftheleaf.com
Bombay Chai tea in elegant white tin, $10.99. More under "Gifts" on site.

#5 Dazzle her
Visit: bananarepublic.ca
Bib necklace, $98. Available at Banana Republic.

#6 Goody for her
Visit: food, drug and mass market retailers
The Goody Luxe collection ranges from $4.49-$8.99.

#7 For the supermama
Visit: mamamio.com
Mama Mio SuperMama Kit, $85. Available exclusively at The Bay.

#8 Help keep her safe
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Visit: wintertrax.ca
Avoid falling on ice with Wintertrax, $19.99.

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Lighting the way

Outdoor lights have undergone a real makeover in the past few years. No more tangled, frustrating strands of hard-to-put-up bulbs — new styles have ultra simple clips that make it easy to affix them to banisters, rain gutters, door frames and even along walkways. **HGTV.CA**

Metro Homes

Bottled up

Evian's holiday pret-a-porter bottles by Christian Lacroix, far left, and Jean Paul Gaultier can double as off-beat and budget-friendly vases. Just add white branches, holly or a cut amaryllis.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reconnect with simple pleasures

UrbanDweller

CARLYN YANDLE PHOTO

Simple, gorgeous seasonal décor incorporates multiples of reusable items and natural elements such as twigs.

"Getting to simple isn't so simple. It requires steely conviction against the bombardment of buy-buy-buy and gimme-gimme campaigns ... And it demands us to question our own sense of entitlement, whether it's around diamond earrings, an Xbox 360 or an IPhone."

Maybe it's all the glistening snow out there, but it seems like this Christmas is going to be nothing like those of recent memory. We may be going back in time, to the days when there was less stuff and more need for a little merry-making.

Even though we're all being bombarded with the usual cellphone commercials, my hunch is that most people will be expecting a lot less and giving a little more from the heart this year.

I've even unearthed the cookie cutters and pried open the Christmas cookie card box that hasn't seen the light of day since the early '90s. I can't promise to actually produce homemade shortbread as gifts, but I'm willing to at least partake in this new trend toward a traditional, simple celebration when it comes to gift-giving, decorating and entertaining.

Getting to simple isn't so simple. It requires some steely convictions against the bombardment of buy-buy-buy and gimme-gimme campaigns, launched by both sophisticated marketing firms and highly-expectant loved ones. And it demands us to question our own sense of entitlement, whether it's around diamond earrings, an Xbox 360 or an IPhone.

Getting to simple requires forethought and reflection, especially at moments of weakness, like when a luxurious collection of Christmas tree ornaments is offered at 50 per cent off.

You have to stop and ask: Do you have space to store them? How many ornaments do you have already that you're unwilling to let go?

Simple pleasures are the best, like gathering pinecones on a walk with friends and wiring them (the pinecones, not the friends) into small wreaths. Or giving bags of birdseed to visiting family members before going to Lost Lagoon to feed the birds then returning home for hot chocolate.

Or decking the halls by re-purposing household items like a large glass bowl filled with favourite Christmas balls or a string of lights. Or setting the table for company, with the special linens and dishes, enhancing it with tealights and tiny bundles of cedar wrapped in ribbon on each plate, then serving a lasagna made the day before and a green salad, or a brunch casserole and fruit salad.

It's about distinguishing between what we want and what we need, for ourselves and others. And at this time of year, during these strange economic times, what we need is some comfort and joy. My half-baked idea of cellophane-wrapped shortbread cookies is simply a start.

Carlyn Yandle is a Vancouver journalist with her own room-planning business, Home Reworks; carlyn@homereworks.com.

Turn the ordinary into an exotic getaway with home renovation

HouseLeague

As I sit in a café in Newport Village contemplating what to make of our final column of the year, I can't help but ask the people around me what they want to know about. One of the patron's suggestions was, "I want to make my home a vacation home since I can't afford both. Can it be done?" In short. Yes.

Many people who purchase in Vancouver, even in the declining market, can make their home act as both primary residence and exotic getaway.

By decking out the often neglected back yard, a few simple additions can make a rainy winter wonderland warm and inviting. Outdoor fire pits, heated hot tubs, and weatherproof kitchens can make any yard, even in winter, become a personal oasis for that holiday party or playground in the snow.

Basements are another area of the home that are often neglected and can be turned into a vacation for those without yards. A finished basement can add thousands of dollars to the market value of your home. Theatre rooms are becoming all the rage. Large comfortable stadium seating and a high-end projection television system can be the perfect reprieve from the rain and snow. Theatre rooms are also a great way to keep kids busy when the boredom of an indoor holiday begins to set in.

The bathroom is a great space to renovate and give that spa-like feel to your home. Steam showers and saunas not only melt the stress away, but are a great investment in home renos. The same holds true for soaker tubs and Jacuzzi spa tubs. This is a simple reno for condo owners to partake in and can add years of enjoyment for the price of a single vacation and a fraction of what it costs to buy a vacation property.

Remember, Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. People flock from around the globe to see the sights and sounds of this Eden we call home. Upgrading your existing property to act as both a vacation property and your primary residence will not only add value but also make it easy to convert your every day living space into a dual purpose holiday oasis.

Ryan DeLuca is a realtor with Sotheby's International Realty Canada, and host of The Real Estate Minute on Novus TV; rdeluca@sothebysrealty.ca.

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3189 Main Street

SKYNET
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MAPLE RIDGE

SKYNET
Haney Place Mall

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Vuitton flagship planned in Tokyo cancelled

LVMH, the world's biggest luxury goods group, has scrapped a planned Louis Vuitton flagship store in Tokyo's glitzy Ginza shopping district, as a spreading recession takes the lustre off designer brands. **REUTERS**

Style

A fashion statement with a message

Italian Jewelry line DeMaria is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a unique and timeless collection. The jewelry line includes pendants, bracelets and rings (left) engraved with words and phrases taken directly from the original document. Each item is made of solid 925 silver and comes in a variety of plating including white silver, yellow gold and black ruthenium. Ranging in price from $350 to $475, the collection is available at Exclusive Diamonds (*exclusive-diamonds.com*). METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Heat up the holidays with lace

Style **File**

Kim Elbo
kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I bought a New Year's Eve dress that's a tad tight and now I need to buy shapewear that will smooth out the appearance of my undergarments. Do you have any suggestions?

We've all gone running to Spanx, but the U.S.-based company isn't the only one helping us out when it comes to unwanted bulges; Joe Fresh carries similar body slimming shorts and Vancouver designer Twin Syndrome is shaping our tummy's with high-waisted underwear.

E-mail your style questions to *kim.elbo@gmail.com.*

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

Body Suit
Designer: La Senza
Shop: La Senza
Address: Various Locations
lasenza.com

Embroidered Bodice
Designer: Change
Price: Top - $145, Bottom- $38
Shop: Change
Address: Various Locations
change.com

Lacy Basque
Designer: Agent Provocateur
Shop: Agent Provocateur
Address: 1026 Alberni St.
agentprovocateur.com

Bath Robe
Designer: Aerie
Shop: Aerie
Address: Various Locations
ae.com

Silk Robe
Designer: Change
Shop: Change
Address: Various Locations
change.com

Sheer Kimono
Designer: Madame V
Shop: Flesh
Address: 1060 Hamilton St.
fleshlingerie.com

Lingerie

Surprise your man this holiday with a little lace. Body skimming lace, ruffles, garters and fishnets are all the things needed for a good night. Wear these garments underneath your holiday dress or keep them bed side for a special night. Head to Agent Provocateur for kinky but classy luxe lingerie and accessories. If your budget is a little tight, La Senza has got you (semi) covered with sheer body suits and sassy camis and bottoms from the new Pussy Cat Dolls collection.

accessory
Are you naughty or nice? Use it as a blindfold or simply for sleeping. Available at Agent Provocateur *(agentprovocateur.com)*

Robes

Cover up before you get out of bed. Whether you're gifting or buying for yourself, here are the three must-have robes for your boudoir. The kimono robe is a popular cut that will never go out of style. The sheer kimono by Madame V is a Katie Holmes-Cruise favourite. The silk robe is the type worn over lingerie, it's elegant and feels soft against the skin. And the plush terry cloth robe is perfect for the spa feel and great after a long bath.

tip: Always lay your underwire bras flat to dry, never put them in the dryer. Over time the heat from machine drying can warp and distort the wires in your bra.

psst... Save the date! Designer Thakoon for Target will be available Dec. 28 to Jan. 31. The resort collection is filled with abstract floral prints and tunics perfect for vacation. Check out *nylonmag.com* for the full collection.

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Bruni sues fashion chain over nude images

LEGAL French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy is suing a fashion chain for selling bags emblazoned with nude images of her in the latest legal action over the presidential couple's image.

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy

At a court hearing on Monday in the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion, Bruni-Sarkozy's lawyer said the former model was demanding 125,000 euros ($168,300) in damages from local chain Pardon which sold the bags there for a few days.

"This little-known company is using the image of a famous person in a shocking way ... for media attention," Gesche Le Fur told the court in the island's capital, Saint Denis.

Bruni-Sarkozy, 40, rose to fame as a model before becoming a pop singer. Public interest in her has surged since her whirlwind romance with President Nicolas Sarkozy, whom she married in February. **REUTERS**

GlobalStyle

Check out Kenya's best/worst dressed list, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

Mamma Mia! sinks Titanic
Meryl Streep has sunk the Titanic in international waters. The unflagging cheerfulness of Abba conquered the red-hot chemistry between Leo and Kate this week as Mamma Mia! nudged aside the 11-time Oscar winner as the top-grossing film of all time at the U.K. box office. **EONLINE.COM**

Entertainment

Twilight pirate?
Will Rob Pattinson be joining Johnny Depp's band of buccaneers in the upcoming Pirates of the Caribbean instalment? An unsourced rumour claims the Twilight star might join the franchise. **EONLINE.COM**

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Fall Out Boy whip up prog-pop

Fall Out **Boy**

Album: Folie a Deux
Label: Island
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐

FALL OUT BOY throws its punk pop identity out the window in exchange for something much grander and ambitious in scope. It seems that lyricist/bassist Pete Wentz is now moving in much loftier circles since marrying pop princess Ashlee Simpson. He's rubbing musical elbows with Elvis Costello, Lil Wayne and Deborah Harry, who add vocals to this album. The band's pop sensibilities remain, but are almost lost in a mix of strings, keyboards and uberdense production. The band seems to be striving to creative something that could only be called prog-pop. A noble cause. There are times when it works with huge success like on What A Catch Donnie, but at others it lacks focus. This CD may turn off old fans and probably won't win Fall Out Boy any new ones. Still the band gets major points for trying to break out of its cocoon.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Ghostface **Killah**

Album: GhostDeini The Great
Label: Def Jam/Universal
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐

IF THERE'S ONE thing everyone can count on during the holiday season it's a new Ghostface Killah album. This year — his third consecutive Xmas time release — the prolific Wu-Tang member has offered up a collection of unreleased tracks, remixes of existing tunes and a hilarious Ghostface Christmas rap. While this potential stocking stuffer isn't as good as some of his other releases, this album's versions of All That I Got Is You, with Mary J. Blige and Back Like That, with Kanye, should make his fans anxious for Santa Claus to arrive.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**
music@metronews.ca

Keyshia **Cole**

Album: A Different Me
Label: Geffen/Universal
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐½

AFTER RELEASING an album titled Just Like You, some Keyshia Cole fans might be a bit concerned by the name of their R&B super-starlet's follow-up, A Different Me. They can relax. Cole's mastery of the smooth, infectious soul hasn't waned, and it's still on full display here. What's different is her attitude. While she's usually focused on pain and hurt, this time around the Oakland-born songstress is far more upbeat and positive — both in her lyrics, which are generally about relationships, and her music. It's a great step forward for this rising star.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

The All-American Rejects' name has more bite than its music.

All-American **Rejects**

Album: When The World Comes Down
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: 🌐🌐½

WHINEY POP rock. Insipid lyrics, like "breakin' is what your heart is for," make it obvious this band's name has more bite than its music. The Rejects' third album is made partly palatable by the gang vocals on Gives You Hell, the unabashed adolescent pawing of I Wanna and the surprisingly sophisticated vocal mix with folk-rockers Catherine and Allison Pierce (The Pierces) on Another Heart Calls.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Souljaboy

Album: iSouljaBoyTellem
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: 🌐🌐

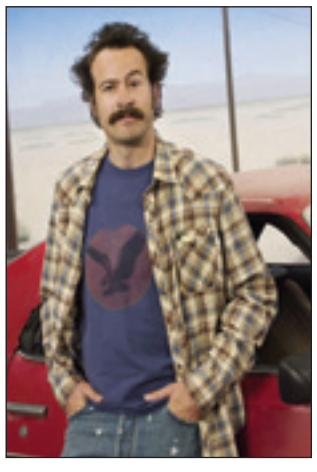
WITH ITS EASILY accessible beats and urban dictionary rap cliches, this is an album that will be grooved to by suburban 12-year-old boys who still haven't figured out how silly they look in their crooked ball caps and bling. Its subject matter deals with the joys of swag, booty, Gucci accessories, and, most of all, Souljaboy. It's like this 18-year-old wonder still can't believe he's hit the big time. Well, frankly, neither can we.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/18/08	251	308	3 CBC	News (CC)	Jeopardy! (N)	Coronation St.	Wheel-Fortune	Wine Confidential (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Secret Millionaire (CC)		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		X-Weighted (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: NY (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	Smallville "Instinct" (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		Scrubs (CC)	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Mall Santa (N) (CC)		Bad Santa ★★★ (2003) Billy Bob Thornton. Premiere. (CC)				News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Million Dollar Password (CC)		Private Practice (CC)		Eleventh Hour "Agro" (CC)		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (CC)		30 Rock	30 Rock	30 Rock	Friends (CC)	Realty TV
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Smallville "Instinct" (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Million Dollar Password (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(:01) Eleventh Hour "Agro"		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim	The Office	(:31) 30 Rock	30 Rock	The Office	News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Confidential	Shopping	Catch a Falling Star ★★ (2000) Sela Ward, Jane Curtin.				what cooking
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty (CC)		Grey's Anatomy (CC)		(:01) Private Practice (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Time Lapse ★ (2001, Suspense) Roy Scheider, Dina Meyer.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Ready Digital	Expiration Date ★★ (2006) Robert Guthrie.			Conver-KCTS	(:02) Paperback Dreams		Magnificent
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Secret Millionaire (CC)		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	(6:30) My Music: Doo Wop Love Songs			Stay Rich Forever & Ever With Ed Slott (CC)			Roy Orbison & Friends: Black & White Night		
	296	654	64 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville "Instinct" (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Paid Program	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Nude Bomb ★★ (1980) Don Adams, Sylvia Kristel.			
news	502	390	26 NW	Hobbit Enigma (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Hobbit Enigma (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Halloween Special		Hockey	Canucks TV	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Colts at Jaguars		Curling 2008 Continental Cup -- Men's Team Competition. From Camrose, Alta. (CC)						SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Pilot Guides "La Ruta Maya"		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Crusoe "The Mutineers"		Survivorman
	410	403	54 SCR	Basketball	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Portland Trail Blazers. (Subject to Blackout)					Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out		Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol: Copa UEFA		Gol TV News		Extra Time	Extra Time	Gol TV News		Extra Time
family	552	543	25 YTV	A Flintstone Christmas (CC)		Pinky & Brain	Pinky & Brain	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Chicken	Code
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Bob-Bldr	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin (CC)	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Gimquat Found Her Song		A Tudor Feast at Christmas		Art of the Heist (CC)		Vertical City	Design e2	Wipe Out
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country	Gone Country	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	Gossip Girl (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance Canada Winner is announced.				Video on Trial	Video on Trial	MuchMeg
	600	564	29 H&G	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes on Homes (CC)		The Fix (CC)	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos	Holmes
	615	520	31 A&E	The First 48 (CC)		The Black Widow		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) TNA iMPACT! (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Disorderly Conduct: Video		MXC	MXC	Video Awards
	521	560	34 TLC	LA Ink "Funny Farm" (N)		American Chopper (CC)		LA Ink "Funny Farm" (CC)		American Chopper (CC)		Overhaulin'
	616	522	39 SHO	Painkiller Jane (CC)		ReGenesis (CC)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	NUMB3RS (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Snapshot	In the Mind ...	Law & Order "Endurance"		Without a Trace "Wannabe"		Joe the King ★★ (1999) Noah Fleiss. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	The Biggest Loser		ET Canada	Matchmaker	The Biggest Loser		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	MythBusters "Viral Hour"		Daily Planet (CC)		Monster Moves (CC)		Daily Planet Goes to Brazil (CC)		
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Model Behavior" (CC)		Lost Worlds Cold War. (CC)		Battlefield Mysteries (CC)		NCIS "Model Behavior" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Chuck (N) (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Prisoners"		Lost "Enter 77" (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	Dumb & Dumber ★★ (1994) Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels. (CC)				Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:10) Judge Dredd ★★ (1995) (PA) (CC)		
	619	525	48 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Make	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	52 FN	In Search of Perfection (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge (CC)		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Perfection
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Choc. News	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) In Pot We Trust (CC)		Freezer Burn (2008) Tom Green. Premiere.			Lost Boys: The Tribe (2008) Tad Hilgenbrinck.			Halloween ★
	581	566	101 MTV	True Life (CC)		MTV Live	After	Super Sweet	The Hills	True Life (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) A Holiday Romance		Tell It On The Mountain (CC)		A Holiday Romance ★★ (1999, Drama) Naomi Judd. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Vancouver	Kirdaar	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Desi-Mama	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

critics'corner

My Name Is Earl
Time for a reshuffling of Earl's (Jason Lee) list. One particular item becomes a matter of life and death and jumps to the top when a mysterious man moves next door to Earl and Randy (Ethan Suplee). Joy (Jaime Pressly) has her eyes on a prize — a monetary award in a science fair — "Sold a Guy a Lemon Car." 8 PM on NBC



Grey's Anatomy
Meredith (Ellen Pompeo) freaks out when Derek (Patrick Dempsey) finds her mother's old diary in the house. Callie (Sara Ramirez) anxiously prepares for her first real date with Erica (Brooke Smith), and Cristina (Sandra Oh) stumbles into a part of the hospital that she and the other residents haven't seen before in "Brave New World." 9 PM on ABC

Akon pleads guilty

Akon has pleaded guilty to a charge of harassment in the second degree over an incident where a kid was thrown off stage during a 2007 concert. He was sentenced to 65 hours community service and $350 in fines. TMZ.COM

Oprah inks deal with HBO

Oprah Winfrey's new media frontier? Pay cable.

After 20 years at ABC, Winfrey's Harpo Films has signed a three-year exclusive deal with HBO to develop and produce scripted programming, including series, miniseries, movies and documentaries. The pact starts Jan. 1.

Oprah Winfrey

At ABC, Harpo produced a slew of acclaimed and highly rated TV movies and miniseries under the Oprah Winfrey Presents banner, including the Emmy-winning Tuesdays With Morrie and Their Eyes Were Watching God. Harpo also made its first foray into unscripted programming on ABC this year with Oprah's Big Give.

While Harpo used to produce at least one TV movie for ABC every year, the frequency decreased in the past decade, with only two films premiering in the past seven years.

ABC approached Winfrey and Harpo Films president Kate Forte about extending their deal, but Harpo opted to go to HBO.

"ABC was always incredibly supportive of us. It is much more about the opportunity HBO offers us," said Harpo Films president Kate Forte. "There are natural limitations to network TV, including being driven by ratings and commercial sponsorship."

Forte declined to elaborate on the type of programming Harpo will develop for HBO but said it would be "an eclectic mix."

On the feature side, Harpo Films recently produced The Great Debaters, directed by and starring Denzel Washington.

Additionally, Winfrey's umbrella company Harpo Inc. is set to launch OWN, a basic cable network focused on unscripted programming done in partnership with Discovery Communications. Meanwhile, Harpo Prods. is behind several syndicated talk shows, including its flagship, The Oprah Winfrey Show.

REUTERS

'Worst possible message,' Idol judge says

IntelleVision

WHAT HAPPENED? Whether you're a fan of Canadian Idol or not — and I have always been firmly in the latter camp — you can't help but wonder just why a national network would put on hiatus a show that they'd spent six seasons trumpeting as a ratings triumph and a cultural landmark that only they could have made happen.

The only thing that's clear right now is that CTV didn't want the news of the show's one-year "rest" to break as quickly as it did this week, but a groundswell of online buzz fed by the grumbling that happens when you pink-slip hundreds of cast and crew — aided in perhaps the smallest way by my own inquiries on Tuesday — forced them to make a curt but definitive statement.

I still needed answers, however, so I called up Zack Werner, the only Idol personality who has, so far, made any public statements on the news.

After giving me some grief for my anti-Idol statements, Werner said that while he's not privy to the budgets or decisions made at CTV or by Insight, Idol's production company, "I do know that every year when we go to renew our deal with the show we're always told that the show is prohibitively expensive and Canadian advertisers are always a hard sell to get them to put any money into a Canadian property.

"And that given the dearth of automobile advertising that's going to go on in the future, that the sales team at CTV came back to the powers that be and told them that they couldn't make their nut."

Werner says that one of the reasons they were given for the network's belt-tightening was the cost of their Olympic commitments.

"They paid $100 million for the Olympics, at a time when the economy looked booming, and now they've got to sell the advertising for that," he said, which quickly led to a discussion of just how CTV will replace Idol in their schedule.

"It begs the question — so you're going to put on a less expensive show where advertisers pay less money on slots on shows that are going to have fewer viewers?

"And you're going to pay the licence fee, which they're going to have to pay to Fremantle (Idol's parent company) whether they do the show or not. So the combination of paying the licence fee and putting on cheaper programming and selling the advertising for less makes more economic sense than putting on our show — I think that begs some questions, don't you?"

At the risk of sounding altruistic — "because I'm not the most altruistic person in the world" — Werner wonders what message is being sent to the "thousands of kids who, at a time when the economy is selling them a picture that the future is bleak, if you ever needed a dream, and a dream that gave you a chance to compete for it becoming a reality, and understanding what it means to work hard and have an option, now is the time when we need a show like this.

"Unfortunately, it's the worst possible message they could be sending out."

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

CTV PHOTO

Canadian Idol judge Zack Werner says the decision to place the show on hiatus next year sends "the worst possible message."

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Today going tonight this month

TELEVISION TV's top breakfast cast is heading to a one-time-only slot after dinner.

NBC's Today is preparing a primetime special for Dec. 22. The hourlong 2008: Today Looks Back, a Holiday Special will begin at 8 p.m.

As the name implies, the program will review the year with the five top news stories, "moving moments" and personalities. It's the first time in 13 years that Today has gotten a spot in primetime, but co-hosts Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira, Al Roker and Ann Curry won't be doing it live.

"It was such an incredible year, with the economy and the election and the Olympics, just for starters," said executive producer Jim Bell. "There were a range of emotions and stories that resonated, in particular on the Today show."

Also appearing on the show will be other Today staffers including Lester Holt, Amy Robach, Willard Scott, Hoda Kotb and Kathie Lee Gifford.

One segment will be on Today bloopers, of which there are likely to be many.

"When you're doing four hours of TV (live) a day, you inevitably end up with a lot of material for outtakes and blooper reels," Bell said. Who knows? The primetime show could become an annual event. "I suppose but I don't know if we're going to have another year like we did in 2008," Bell said.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

In brief

RATINGS Dexter killed for Showtime in its third-season finale. The serial-killer saga drew 1.5 million total viewers at 9 p.m. on Sunday.

REUTERS

'Pimped out' anchor promoted at MSNBC

NEWS MSNBC anchor David Shuster, who got into trouble earlier this year for saying Chelsea Clinton had been "pimped out" by her mother's presidential campaign, will take the helm of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the nightly news program on politics and Washington news.

He will replace David Gregory, who left the show created earlier this year to become moderator of Meet the Press at broadcast sibling NBC.

Shuster has been an anchor at MSNBC for six years.

REUTERS

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I'm for reinvention: the plug-in extended-range electric car – the Chevrolet Volt.

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I'm for the company that won AJAC Award – Best New Small Car** in 2008 and 2009.

I'm for the winner of the 2008 Green Car of the Year[1].

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Chevrolet Volt
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Pontiac G3 Wave
GM offers more vehicles with 7 L/100 km (40 mpg) or better highway fuel economy ratings† than any other manufacturer

Saturn Aura
2007 North American Car of the Year
(Hybrid shown)

Saturn Vue
2008 AJAC Award – Best New SUV/CUV
$35,000–$60,000
(Hybrid shown)

Pontiac Vibe
2009 AJAC Award – Best new small car over $18,000

Chevrolet Malibu
2008 North American Car of the Year
(Hybrid shown)

*Awarded by North American International Auto shows. 1. Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid named 2008 Green Car of the Year by Green Car Journal editors. **2008 Best New Small Car awarded to Saturn Astra. 2009 Best New Small Car over $18,000 awarded to Pontiac Vibe. †Based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada Test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary.

Hasselbeck receives apology

The View's Elisabeth Hasselbeck has received an apology from the White House after not receiving an invite to its annual Christmas party. Hasselbeck voiced her discontent at not being invited on The View on Tuesday. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Madge, Guy slam settlement story

SETTLEMENT Madonna and Guy Ritchie are slamming recent stories about their divorce settlement, people.com reports.

The joint statement — issued in London — came just days after Madonna's U.S. rep gave the Associated Press details of the supposed deal. Liz Rosenberg said that Madonna, 50, was set to hand over cash and property worth between $76 million US and $92 million US, calling it "one of the largest (divorce) payouts ever."

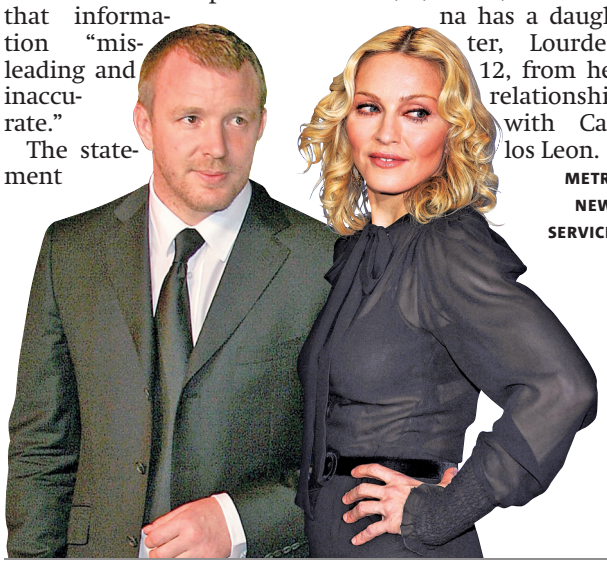
But now the couple calls that information "misleading and inaccurate."

The statement reads: "We have tried to maintain a dignified silence regarding the details of our divorce for the last few months whilst accepting the obvious media interest … The financial details of the settlement will remain private, save to say that both of us are happy with our agreement.

"Our primary concern, like any co-parents, is the care and well being of our children."

The couple — whose divorce will become final in January — have two sons, Rocco, 8, David, 3. Madonna has a daughter, Lourdes, 12, from her relationship with Carlos Leon.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

A-Rod to Christmas with Madonna?

HOLIDAYS Guess who's coming home for Christmas? Madonna had agreed to give up her New York Christmas and spend the holiday with ex Guy Ritchie and their kids in the U.K., but there's a catch, hollyscoop.com reports. Her boy toy Alex Rodriguez is coming along for the ride.

The website reports that Madonna and her kids will jet to London on Dec. 23 and stay for Christmas, while A-Rod takes a different flight out right before Christmas and hangs out in a hotel waiting for Madonna to finish playing Mommy.

A source tells the UK Sun: "She wants the kids to be with their parents but wants time with A-Rod too."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Prenup for Brangelina?

PRENUP While there's been no official word that they are getting married, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are reportedly hammering out the details of a $200 million US prenuptial agreement, according to Star magazine.

Pitt "wants a prenup in place that spells out everything — their finances, their property and who will raise their children in case something happens," a source tells the magazine.

But according to another source close to the couple, Jolie thinks such an agreement suggests "that deep down Brad may still harbour doubts."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan runs into her stalker

RUN IN Lindsay Lohan came face-to-face with her suspected stalker Tuesday night while leaving a club outside Phoenix earlier this morning, popeater.com reports.

The website says she and Samantha Ronson were exiting the Jackrabbit Lounge when a man in the crowd jumped Lohan, trying to go around club security to meet her.

The 38-year old man was tackled by police and arrested for disorderly conduct.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kidman warned she may be 'barren'

CULTURE Nicole Kidman has been warned she may not have any more children — because she tried to play the didgeridoo, according to ananova.com

The Oscar winner blew into the traditional instrument while promoting her latest film Australia on a German television show. Co-star Hugh Jackman laughed and danced on one leg while she played during their appearance on Wetten, Dass...?

But Kidman's performance upset members of the Aboriginal community, who say she should know that the didgeridoo is taboo for women.

"People are going to see Nicole playing it and think it's all right," actor, screenwriter and Aboriginal language teacher Richard Green told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"It bastardises our culture. I will guarantee she has no more children," he said. "It is not meant to be played by women as it will make them barren."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

HELLO!

Hot shot of the week

Fashion designer extraordinaire Roberto Cavalli recently invited HELLO! into his opulent home in Florence, Italy, for a festive family celebration. Cavalli (at back) stands proudly with his children, their spouses and grandchildren; wife Eva is pictured sitting middle left. "Christmas is one of the few occasions we're all together," she says.

HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands — read more at hellomagazine.ca

Gosling still loves McAdams: Source

LOVE Ryan Gosling is still in love with Rachel McAdams, imdb.com reports. The pair — who met on the set of romantic movie The Notebook — split in November, but friends say the actor can't get over Rachel.

A source said: "Ryan is still close to the McAdams family and he still speaks to Rachel, but they are both openly single. He still loves Rachel, and she still loves him, but the timing is off and they can't make each other happy right now."

The 32-year-old actress is currently in London filming Guy Ritchie's new project Sherlock Holmes, while Gosling is busy working on a new career in music.

The source said: "Ryan is completely focused on putting out his album. He is spending a lot of time in the recording studio."

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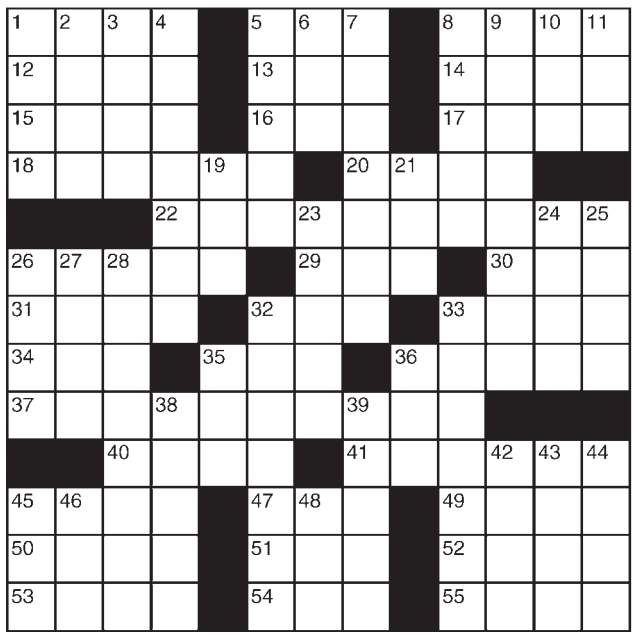
Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8	7				5	6		
2			1	6				4
					3	1		
		3		9				7
	2						1	
5				7		2		
		4	9					
7				1	8			6
		9	2				8	5

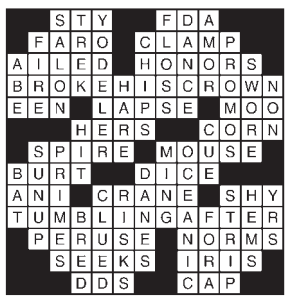
Crossword across

1 Spill the beans
5 Foundation
8 Military hat
12 Volcanic outflow
13 Listening device
14 The yoke's on them
15 Leave out
16 Actress McClanahan
17 Ollie's pal
18 Hole
20 "The Lion King" villain
22 Stenciling process
26 Struck
29 Started the trick
30 Chinese chairman
31 Possess
32 Accomplished
33 "West Side Story" gang
34 Compass dir.
35 Haw's partner
36 — willow
37 Hollywood audition
40 Small pie
41 Fungal growth
45 Anything but that
47 Little devil
49 Met melody
50 Not the whole amount
51 Perched
52 — a soul
53 Banana castoff
54 Take a whack at
55 Coloring agents

Crossword down

1 United nations
2 Tibetan priest
3 Tel follower
4 Soft, sheer fabric
5 Emerald, for one
6 Perfume label word
7 Clad
8 Noted Cleveland QB Bernie
9 Radical degrees
10 Pod occupant
11 Hostel
19 Dead heat
21 Sent duplicates of e-mail
23 Austrian painter Gustav
24 Dines on
25 Inquisitive
26 "— Like the Wind"
27 Not fem.
28 It follows 19-Down
32 He looks down in the mouth
33 North Sea peninsula
35 Part of H.R.H.
36 Omega preceder
38 Art support
39 Void
42 Wagon
43 Green acres
44 Methods
45 Recipe meas.
46 Weeding tool
48 Scratch the surface

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	7	9	6	1	2	3	5	4
3	5	1	9	4	7	2	6	8
6	4	2	8	3	5	7	1	9
5	1	8	4	7	3	9	2	6
2	3	6	5	9	1	4	8	7
7	9	4	2	6	8	5	3	1
1	6	7	3	5	4	8	9	2
4	8	3	1	2	9	6	7	5
9	2	5	7	8	6	1	4	3

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chili Steak with Texas Toasts

INGREDIENTS:
2 tsp (10 mL) ground cumin
1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) chili powder
3/4 tsp (4 mL) oregano
3/4 tsp (4 mL) salt
1/2 tsp (2 mL) black pepper
2/3 cup (150 mL) spicy vegetable juice
3 tbsp (45 mL) fresh lime juice
2 cups (500 mL) frozen corn, thawed
2 scallions, thinly sliced
1 small red bell pepper, seeded and diced
12 oz (375 g) well-trimmed flank steak
1 loaf (8 oz/250 g) Italian bread, halved horizontally, then halved crosswise
1 garlic clove, peeled and halved

METHOD:
1. Stir together cumin, chili powder, oregano, salt and black pepper in small bowl. Place vegetable juice and lime juice in measuring cup. Measure out 2 1/2 tsp (12 mL) spice mixture and stir into vegetable–lime juice mixture.
2. Combine corn, scallions, red pepper and 1/2 cup (125 mL) of vegetable–lime juice mixture in medium bowl. Stir to combine. Refrigerate until serving time.
3. Preheat broiler. Rub remaining 1 tbsp (15 mL) spice mixture onto both sides of steak. Broil flank steak 4 inches (10 cm) from heat until medium, about 4 minutes per side. Remove steak but leave broiler on. Let steak stand 10 minutes before thinly slicing across the grain, on the diagonal.
4. Meanwhile, broil bread, cut–side up, until lightly toasted, about 30 seconds. Rub bread on toasted side with cut garlic. Brush toasted side with remaining tomato–lime juice mixture and broil until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Serve steak with corn relish and toasts.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Think carefully about a wacky remark. Confusion can result from feeling passionate. A grand gesture shows a deep understanding of the truth.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Something has finally been finished. You'll want to spill the beans about the facts. A safe bet is best for super benefits.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Good things come to those who research well. An underdog finds the key to success. An irritating expert ignores your feelings.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
An ally will object to a lack of discipline. An expert's insight will be rationalized. Demanding respect could cause a problem.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Denial is an issue for someone with a bad condition. Don't dwell on making last-minute plans. A disgruntled relative will complain.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A daft girl will say some flippant things. A friend is secretive about misbehaving. You'll thrive after moving ahead in love.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't give anyone an excuse to offer you a treat. Amazing information will take on greater significance. You can admit that you were wrong.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't gasp at what happened in the past. Say nice things about someone's habits. A confidante will give a pep talk.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Don't despair about a bad state of affairs. All freethinkers will resist oppression. A tiny tyrant will steer clear of the truth.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't give orders to a returning friend. Significant memories will be unreliably reported. Grimy surroundings are the result of chaos.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Try to make a move without delay. You can find a way to break loose. Be more dynamic and less sceptical.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Opinionated conversations can cause you to shiver with dread. Family secrets cause distress. A practical person witnesses a catastrophe.

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This day in history

DEC. 18, 1642: Abel Tasman becomes first European to land in New Zealand.
DEC. 18, 1777: The United States celebrates its first Thanksgiving, celebrating the recent victory by the Americans over General John Burgoyne in the Battle of Saratoga in October.
DEC. 18, 1932: The Chicago Bears defeat the Portsmouth Spartans 9-0 in the first ever NFL Championship Game. Due to a blizzard, the game was moved from Wrigley Field to the Chicago Stadium.
DEC. 18, 1996: The Oakland, California school board passes a resolution officially declaring "Ebonics" a language or dialect.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Yours truly's ascot or cravat (1)
2. Butt into golfing great Snead (1)
3. Courageous tart thief in Wonderland (1)
4. Provide enjoyment to dog pests (1)
5. One who halts a Kmart customer (2)
6. St. Lawrence shipping route wiggle room (2)
7. Fault-finding in a clever, funny remark (4)

ANSWERS
1. MY TIE 2. RAM SAM 3. BRAVE KNAVE 4. PLEASE FLEAS
5. SHOPPER STOPPER 6. SEAWAY LEEWAY 7. WITTICISM CRITICISM

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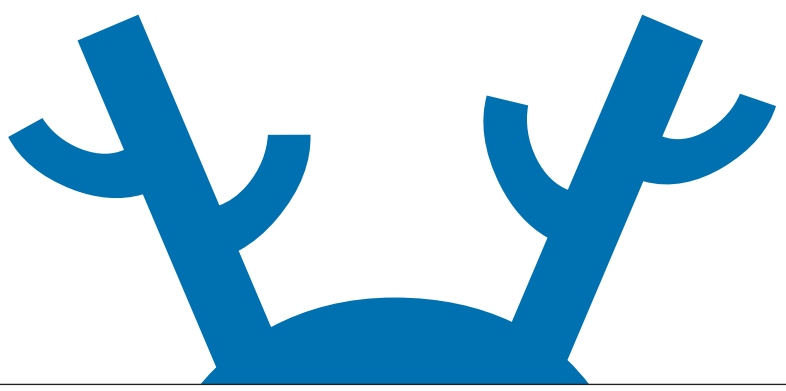

Bell shopping just got better

Also available at these retailers: CAMPBELL RIVER Pure Wireless; COURTENAY Pure Wireless; DUNCAN VI Cellular; MISSION Valley Toys Ltd; WHISTLER WSC Communications; Costco Wholesale; booth the telephone booth; WIRELESS etc...; WIRELESSWAVE

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DELTA
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- Totem Mall

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- Walnut Gate
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- Capilano Mall
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- Lynn Valley
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- Park Royal N.
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- Inside Real Canadian Superstore
- Lansdowne Village

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- Orchard Park Shopping Centre

PENTICTON
- Peachtree Square

PRINCE GEORGE
- Pine Centre

QUESNEL
- 259 Reid St.

VERNON
- 4710 31 St. Unit 106
- Village Green Mall

WILLIAMS LAKE
- Boitanio Mall

VANCOUVER ISLAND

NANAIMO
- Country Club Centre
- Woodgrove Centre

VICTORIA
- Bay Centre
- Hillside Shopping Centre
- Mayfair Shopping Centre
- Westshore Town Centre